CONSUMER TIME

PLAYING SAFE

August 11, 1945

NETWORK: NBC DATE: ~~June 30, 1945~~

ORIGIN: WRC TIME: 12:15-12:30 PM- EWT

(Produced by the ~~War Food Administration~~ U.S.D.A. ...this script is for reference only and may not be broadcast without special permission. The title CONSUMER TIME is restricted to network broadcast of the program...presented for more than twelve years in the interest of consumers.)

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1. SOUND: CASH REGISTER RINGS TWICE....MONEY IN TILL

2. JOHN: It's CONSUMER TIME!

3. SOUND: CASH REGISTER...CLOSE DRAWER.

4. ANNCR: During the next fifteen minutes, the National Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations make their facilities available as a public service for the presentation of CONSUMER TIME by the ~~War Food Administration~~ U.S.D.A. And here are Mrs. Freyman and Johnny.

5. FREYMAN: Sure and it's a pleasant day in June to be talking to you, Johnny...over the back fence this way.

6. JOHN: (LAUGH) Oh...is this a back fence we're talking over, Mrs. Freyman?

7. FREYMAN: Yes...today we're gossiping...you and I. You know, Johnny, the telephone is a great invention...and so is radio, for that matter. But you can't beat the back fence for exchanging the really important news items of the neighborhood.

8. JOHN: I'm with you, Mrs. Freyman. (CAUTIOUSLY) Eh...just what are we gossiping about today?

9. FREYMAN: (IN CLOSE) Well...confiendtially, it's the Jones family. I simply don't understand how they can have so many accidents.. just around the house.

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10. JOHN: (RIGHT IN THE SPIRIT) Oh...the Jones family! Yes, isn't that so...very careless...very careless. But you know, there are some people whom accidents always seem to be happening to.

11. FREYMAN: But, Johnny...there must be reasons for it. After all, it gets to be a serious thing when more people are killed or injured in home accidents...than in any other kind of accident.

12. JOHN: Is that so, really? I thought more people would get hurt in factories. There are so many more people in war plants nowadays.

13. FREYMAN: You'd think so...but you see in war plants, there are organized campaigns for safety...because industry just can't afford to lose valuable man-hours from careless accidents. But safety at home...is simply up to the family!

14. JOHN: However, Mrs. Freyman...home accidents must cost plenty of important wartime man-hours, don't they?

15. FREYMAN: I should say so...thousands of people are killed, and millions are injured every year...right on their own porches and stairways and kitchens.

16. JOHN: And that's why we're gossiping about the amazing Jones family whom something's always happening to.

17. FREYMAN: That's why. And Johnny, you simply wouldn't believe it... but the other day, Josephine Jones told me herself about something that happened...something awful, I thought.

18. SOUND: (IN FAST ON ABOVE...GREAT CRASHING AND BREAKING AND BANGING AND GENERAL CHAOS. HOLD THIS GOOD AND LONG. THEN SLIGHT PAUSE OF SILENCE.)

19. ALBERT: (SMALL VOICE) Ouch!

20. JOSEPHINE: (HYSTERICALLY...RUNNING IN) Darling! Albert! What happened? Are you all right? Oh, Albert...speak to me!

21. ALBERT: (MILDLY AND SADLY) Hello, Josephine.

22. JOSEPHINE: (EXCITED AND SHRILL) Oh, my poor dear...you fell all the way down these stairs! Albert, pick yourself up if you can. My goodness, you're all covered with mops and brooms and the laundry.

23. ALBERT: It...wasn't anything much really. Clumsy of me, I guess.

24. JOSEPHINE: (A LITTLE REPROACHFULLY) You should pick up your feet when you walk, dearest.

25. ALBERT: I thought I was, pet. But I picked up one foot and put it down on this, I guess.

26. JOSEPHINE: On what?

27. ALBERT: (SADLY) This...Freddie's roller skate.

28. JOSEPHINE: Oh dear!

29. ALBERT: (RESIGNEDLY) I don't know what it was doing here on the back-stairs.

30. JOSEPHINE: What a shame. I must remember to speak to Freddie.

31. ALBERT: Of course if Freddie had left both roller skates on the stairs, I could have put one foot on one and one on the other...

32. JOSEPHINE: Yes, dear.

33. ALBERT: And gracefully skated downstairs.

34. JOSEPHINE: (WITH SYMPATHY) Yes, dear.

35. ALBERT: (GROAN OF GETTING UP)

36. SOUND: CLATTERING OF MOPS AND BROKEN THINGS AS HE GETS UP.)

37. JOSEPHINE: Oh, Albert...are you sure you're all right!

38. ALBERT: (GRUNTS) Oh, yes...I'll....I'll walk around a bit. (LIGHTLY) Oh well...a broken kneecap is nothing. People get over it. Lots of people get over a fractured collar bone too. In a few months...you can't even feel it. Anyhow that's what they say, Josephine.

39. FREYMAN: Yes, Johnny...falls are by far the most serious of home accidents. Now, Mr. Jones was lucky...but the fact is that more people are killed in falls than in automobile accidents, or in any other single kind of accident.

40. JOHN: Well, what's usually the reason for these falls, Mrs. Freyman? People leaving things around on the stairs?

41. FREYMAN: That's one careless thing that people do, Johnny. Leave toys around the house, or brooms or mops...(LOWERING VOICE) Now I was over at the Jones' the other day, and no wonder Albert Jones is always tripping and breaking something. He's very meek about it, and Josephine says he's clumsy...but I think it's her fault as much as anything. We were sitting there talking when....

42. SOUND: (SPLITTING NOISE FOLLOWED BY HEAVY THUD)

43. JOSEPHINE: (CALLS) Albert?

44. ALBERT: (PROJECTS AFTER BRIEF PAUSE) It's nothing, Josephine.

45. JOSEPHINE: What happened?

46. ALBERT: I guess the floor has just been polished. That little rug by the telephone just seemed to slip out from under me.

47. JOSEPHINE: (SINGS OUT REPROACHFULLY) Better be a little more careful, Albert, dear. (TO FREYMAN) He does rush around so....

PAUSE:

48. FREYMAN: But, Johnny...actually it isn't Albert's fault so much. That house of theirs has a danger at every turn.

49. JOHN: The floors are too slippery?

50. FREYMAN: For one thing, yes. And they make no attempt to fix the rugs so they won't slide out from under you.

51. JOHN: I heard a good idea for that Mrs. Freyman. You can take fruit jar rubbers and sew them on the underside of a rug...around the edges. And it can't possible slip.

52. FREYMAN: Yes. And you shouldn't leave floors wet or too waxy, in the first place.

53. JOHN: Right.

54. FREYMAN: Oh, and there are other things in the Jones house. The cellar stairs aren't lighted, for one thing. And the boards are loose on the front steps. Then there always seems to be a footstool or a coffee table in the way...

55. JOHN: Hey, quiet, here comes Albert Jones. Look, his arm's all bandaged up.

56. FREYMAN: (CALLS OUT) Oh, hello there Albert!

57. ALBERT: (SADLY) Hello.

58. JOHN: What's the matter with your arm?

59. ALBERT: My arm? Oh...it's Saturday.

60. FREYMAN: (LAUGH) You mean you always bandage up your arm on Saturdays?

61. ALBERT: It seems that way. Saturdays I help Josephine do little things around the house.

62. FREYMAN: Like...what?

63. ALBERT: Oh, hang pictures or move furniture usually. Today, it was the casseroles.

64. JOHN: The casseroles?

65. ALBERT: Yes. They were at the top of the cupboard. We're going to have onion soup in casseroles, so I got them down for Josephine.

66. FREYMAN: And...something happened?

67. ALBERT: Yes. I guess they were a little too high and a little far back. You know what I mean. The chair must have slipped a little. (SADLY) It wasn't a very strong chair. (PAUSE) Well...I'll be seeing you.

68. JOHN: Off so soon?

69. ALBERT: Yes, I'm going downtown. (GOING OFF) Got to buy some casseroles.

PAUSE:

70. FREYMAN: (LOW VOICE) See what I mean?

71. JOHN: That poor guy isn't going to last out the year.

72. FREYMAN: Well, he's just one of about five million people who get injured in home accidents every year in this country. That's not counting the over 30,000 who get killed.

73. JOHN: You know, that's a lot of people...to be careless, Mrs. Freyman.

74. FREYMAN: I should say it is a lot of people, Johnny. You'd think people'd be extra careful in wartime, to keep themselves and their families safe and well.

75. JOHN: You'd think so! Say, I'm getting interested in this gossip session, Mrs. Freyman. What other accidents happen around the house...as if I didn't know?

76. FREYMAN: Oh, of course people are always getting burned. And I might say that the Joneses take a prize for that too, Johnny.

77. JOHN: Yes? How do you mean?

78. FREYMAN: (CONFIDENTIAL AGAIN) Well...I don't like to say anything against our neighbors...but that Josephine Jones. You should see her around the kitchen about mealtime. You know, Johnny, statistics show that more accidents occur just before mealtime...when people are rushing around the kitchen... (SLIGHT FADE)

79. SOUND: CLATTER OF POTS AND PANS...RUNNING WATER...STEAM...ETC.

80. JOSEPHINE: Freddie, you stay away from that hot stove! Freddie....don't climb up there...keep away from that frying pan. (CALLING) Al-bert...come here and mash the potatoes, will you...and Freddie...I told you not to get near there...Albert...please hurry.

81. ALBERT: Here I am...Josephine...what did you want?

82. JOSEPHINE: The potatoes are there in the pan, dear...just mash them, will you...and Freddie...stay out of mother's way.

83. ALBERT: (VERY LOUDLY) Ouch! Good land, Josephine!

84. JOSEPHINE: Now what?

85. ALBERT: You didn't say the handle would be hot.

86. JOSEPHINE: Here, use this holder, idiot. Of course the pan's hot.

87. ALBERT: Owwww!

88. JOSEPHINE: What happened, Albert?

89. ALBERT: The steam...it's hot...I'm scalded.

90. SOUND: TELEPHONE BEGINS TO RING UNDER THIS.

91. JOSEPHINE: Oh, here I'll pour the water off. You're as helpless as a child.

92. ALBERT: I'd better get the phone...

93. JOSEPHINE: Yes, hurry...it's been ringing...

94. SOUND: TRIPPING AND BANGING COUPLED WITH BABY CRY AND TELEPHONE STILL RINGING.

95. JOSEPHINE: Watch out for Freddie! Freddie, I told you to stay out from underfoot. Mother told you...

96. SOUND: BABY AND PHONE FADE OUT AS JOSEPHINE FADES.

PAUSE:

97. FREYMAN: Yes, it's hectic around the Jones' kitchen just before meal-time. If they're any example of families all over the country, I say no wonder the kitchen is a dangerous place.

98. JOHN: And I take it that burns and scalds rank next in the number of home accidents.

99. FREYMAN: Yes, they do, and these accidents are even more easily avoided than falls. If you're careful to keep children away from the hot stove...and if you're careful yourself with handling cooking utensils, matches and open fires...you can keep from joining the ranks of those 5,000 fatal accidents from burns, which happen every year in this country.

And I want to add something else, Johnny...

100. JOHN: Yes, Mrs. Freyman?

101. FREYMAN: This time of year, a lot of us are beginning to do our summer canning. That can be very dangerous, if it isn't done right.

102. JOHN: Is that so?

103. FREYMAN: Yes, indeed...you have to be careful with pressure canners. You should melt the paraffin slowly for instance. And use heavy tongs to lift the jars from the boiling water. And you shouldn't leave the room for any length of time without checking the cooker or the stove before going. Home canning requires a lot of extra care in the kitchen, you know.

104. JOHN: Yes, but the trouble is, people always say it couldn't happen to me!

105. FREYMAN: Isn't that so. But after all, you can be a part of a statistic, just like anybody else!

106. JOHN: I'll remember that, Mrs. Freyman. If there's anything I don't want to be, it's the tail-end of a statistic on how many people got burned in the kitchen this year.

107. FREYMAN: Nor do I. But now the Joneses...they're making their mark in every bracket, for the 1945 accident statistics.

108. JOHN: What's the next bracket?

109. FREYMAN: Well, you know, Johnny, that thousands of people get in serious trouble by taking the wrong medicine...or by leaving poisons around within reach of children.

110. JOHN: Is that so? And do the Joneses happen to be that kind of family?

111. FREYMAN: Do they! I should say so. I just happened to be in Dr. Blake's office the other day...when I heard him talking to Josephine Jones over the telephone.

112. BLAKE: Yes, I see, Mrs. Jones. Well, he ought to be all right by now. Just keep him quiet, and if he gets hungry let him have a little broth. I think the stomach pump was a shock to the little fellow. Yes, Mrs. Jones. No...no indeed, Mrs. Jones. Goodbye, Mrs. Jones.

113. SOUND: (RECEIVER CLICK)

114. BLAKE: (TO FREYMAN) My, my, my...

115. FREYMAN: The Jones family, Dr. Blake?

116. BLAKE: Who else? I've told her time and time again to leave poisons out of reach of little Freddie...to hide 'em...or burn 'em up if they're not necessary. But what happens. He reaches into the medicine cabinet, and eats a handful of very dangerous pills. We had to rush out there with antidotes and goodness knows what all, to save his life.

117. FREYMAN: But he's all right now, Dr. Blake?

118. BLAKE: Oh yes, he'll live...he's O.K. But...(SORT OF AMAZED LAUGH) That's nothing. I'd expect it from a child...if the family leaves dangerous medicines around where he can get at 'em. It's that Albert Jones I don't understand.

119. FREYMAN: Albert?

120. BLAKE: Yes, Albert. He has a habit of forgetting to take his pills until he's gone to bed. So he gets up and stumbles over to the medicine chest.

121. FREYMAN: That's Albert all right...probably stumbled over the rocking chair out in the middle of the floor.

122. BLAKE: Yes...and he reaches in and pulls out what he thinks ought to be the right pills...and gulp! Down they go.

123. FREYMAN: And ten minutes later your phone begins to ring.

124. BLAKE: Isn't that so. The way that family lives...well, I wouldn't want to be the Insurance Company holding Albert Jones' policy!

PAUSE:

125. JOHN: Boy, they are the hard luck family for sure.

126. FREYMAN: Hard luck, nothing. They're just plain careless. Of course, Johnny, nobody wants to get hurt. You'd think that would be enough to make people extra careful. But evidently it isn't...

127. JOHN: Actually, all these home accidents must cost a pretty penny, both in money, and in important working hours.

128. FREYMAN: Cost! I should say so. The cost of these home accidents is about $600,000,000 every year in the United States. Imagine that six hundred million extra going into War Bonds right about now!

129. JOHN: And probably this minute, as we're talking, some folks are getting hurt right around home.

130. FREYMAN: Well, now that you mention it, Johnny...statistics say that every 16 minutes, someone in the United States looses his life in an accident at home. And every six seconds, someone gets injured. That's a pretty startling record.

131. JOHN: That kind of gives me the jitters, Mrs. Freyman. I guess I'll walk around on my hands and knees from now on...with a fire extinguisher strapped to my back.

132. FREYMAN: (LAUGH) I promise you that's not necessary, Johnny...just be normally careful, that's all!

133. SOUND: FIRE SIREN STARTS ON ABOVE..AND FADES IN LOUDER AND LOUDER.

134. JOHN: Hey, what's that?

135. FREYMAN: Sounds like a fire engine.

136. JOHN: Wonder where the fire is...

137. FREYMAN: Oh-ho, here comes Albert Jones.

138. JOHN: He's loping right along, too.

139. FREYMAN: Don't tell me...(CALLS) Al-bert...where's the fire!

140. JOHN: Is it your house, Jones?

141. ALBERT: (CALLING) Yes...I just put in the alarm. We had a little trouble in the kitchen, I guess.

142. JOHN: Come on, we'll go with you...

143. FREYMAN: Let's hurry.

144. SOUND: SIREN STILL BEHIND, FADING

145. JOHN: (PANTING ON THE RUN) What...what happened, Albert?

146. ALBERT: (PANTING TOO) Oh...I guess Josephine was frying something ...and the grease caught on fire...in the frying pan.

147. JOHN: Couldn't you get the fire out?

148. ALBERT: We tried to...threw water on it...right away. But somehow that just seemed to spread it...all over the place. Water didn't put it out at all...(FADING) Didn't do any good at all, Mrs. Freyman.

149. SOUND: FIRE SIREN UP...AND HOLD...THEN FADE OUT.

150. ANNCR: Friends, accidents at home cost millions of dollars, thousands of lives every year. What's more important, the next costly accident...may be in your home, today. Be careful...for your sake, for your family's sake, for your country's sake.

151. FREYMAN: And now, Johnny...that we've reminded our CONSUMER TIME listeners about this very important matter of safety at home... what have we scheduled for next week?

152. JOHN: Next week, we're going to tell all about home canning, 1945 style. And there are going to be a lot of valuable hints on putting up those Victory Garden vegetables.

153. FREYMAN: So be sure to listen next week...for another edition of...

154. SOUND: CASH REGISTER

155. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME!

156. SOUND: CASH REGISTER

157. JOHN: How your money buys a living in wartime!

158. SOUND: CASH REGISTER....CLOSE DRAWER.

159. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME, written by Christine Kempton, is presented by the U.S.D.A. ~~War Food Administration~~, through the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations. It comes to you from Washington, D. C. This broadcast period for CONSUMER TIME has been made available as a public service.

This is the National Broadcasting Company.